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**E**

*Office of Graduate Studies & Research*

**Newsletter**

*Fall 2016*



# New Blood

*Research numbers are up across the board, thanks in large part to new principal investigators.*

The Office of Research Development and Administration recently released its July-September quarterly report, showing a \$2.14 million increase in award dollars over the previous year, along with an increased total number of awards. Proposal numbers also increased, as did total value of proposals. Research focused awards have increased substantially from last year. The overall trend is, in large part, thanks to an increase in the number of first-time submissions from, and first-time awards to, faculty.

The total first quarter proposal value saw an increase of over \$20 million, most substantially supported by the Promise Neighborhood proposal to the U.S. Department of Education for \$18.4 million. However, excluding this proposal, the quarterly proposal value still saw an increase of \$1.5 million compared to last year at this time. This dollar amount spans an additional eight proposals, totaling 38 over the previous year's 30.

Award value this quarter totaled \$6.21 million, up from \$4 million the previous year. Funding growth spans nine awardees, with a total of 44, up from last year's 35.

First time awardees contributing to the increase include Chemistry Professor Steven Backues, Philosophy Professor John Koolage, Theatre Arts Professor Susan Badger-Booth, and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Professor Zuzana Tomas, among others.

**Badger-Booth: Michigan Campus Compact**

Professor Susan Badger-Booth, the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Campus Executive Director here at EMU, and NEW Solutions for Nonprofits received a \$3,500 award from the Michigan Campus Compact. These two organizations are partnering to create a Pilot Board Training Program for students, faculty, and staff in

order to broaden the pool of viable board candidates in the region, and better represent the populations they serve.

Professor Badger-Booth supports a "sector-wide belief that a more diverse work and volunteer force will expand the capacity for strategic thought, create a deeper understanding of community needs, and," she says, "enhance the donor base of nonprofit organizations."

**Koolage: National Endowment for the Humanities**

Attitudes toward discovery have changed significantly over the course of history, ranging from fear to that of respect for a noble pursuit. Professor Koolage, with Professor Darlene Leifson of Communication, Media and Theatre Arts, has been awarded \$28,000 from the National Endowment for the

Humanities to develop a class that provides an historical basis for discussion of key questions surrounding the topic of discovery.

Questions will cover relative benefits, comparisons between artistic and scientific discovery, validity of research methodology, realist vs. constructivist discovery, and discovery as an indication of a future state, among other topics.

**Tomas: U.S. Department of Education**

Professor Tomas, serving as principle investigator, along with Professor William Tucker as co-investigator, received a \$513,252 award, the first installment of a \$2.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The project, "Writing Research Intervention in Teaching English Language Learners (WRITELL)" focuses on strategizing support for english learners. The project also involves Sarah Lorenz, of the EMU writing project, as project director, and Professor Shawn Quilter of Teacher Education as evaluator.

By its end, the project will serve 700 current and preservice educators, school

First quarter proposal value increased \$20 million from last year.



From top: Michigan Campus Compact grant awardee Susan Badger-Booth, National Endowment for the Humanities grant awardee William Koolage, U.S. Department of Education grant awardee Zuzana Tomas.

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leaders, counselors, or psychologists, and 2,750 English language learners in Wash-tenaw and Livingston Counties.

Goals for the project include providing high-quality professional development for educators, enhancing preservice and teacher induction programs, providing tuition for TESOL certification, tutoring and educational services to youth and adult English Language Learners in the community with documentation, and 50 additional TESOL certified teachers regionally.



*Left: National Science Foundation grant awardee Steven Backues.*

***Backues: National Science Foundation (NSF)***

Included in this quarter's awards value, are 11 research grants totaling just over \$1.15 million, an increase of \$837,410 spanning an additional seven awardees.

One awardee, Chemistry Professor Steven Backues, received a \$297,384 NSF

research grant to investigate the process by which Atg11, a protein essential for autophagy, organizes a central aspect of selective autophagy initiation; autophagy being a cell's recycling of undesired materials. Professor Backues posits that rather than the previously theorized scaffolding representation of the Atg11 organization mechanism, a more appropriate representation is that of an assembly line. Professor Backues' award also provides a supported experience for two undergraduate students each year of the project.



*Above: Faculty Associate for the Graduate School, Tana Bridge.*

## *Professor Tana Bridge in her role as Faculty Associate for the Graduate School.*

Eastern Michigan University's Graduate School works to provide policy clarity, identify voids, and propose policy changes. Additionally, they work to ensure graduate students understand and operate within policies, meet degree requirements, and ultimately, get all the information they need to complete their degrees. A key part of this effort is Faculty Associate Dr. Tana Bridge.

Dr. Bridge appreciates policy and procedures. She says, "I think they help students clearly understand expectations and offer advisors tools to guide students to graduation. While it is not within the scope of the Graduate School to address every question or concern, we are able to help connect them with needed supports, and create supportive relationships across departments and graduate programs, each bringing unique strengths and challenges."

Working directly with students and advisors, Dr. Bridge ensures that students and programs are allowed enough flexibility to meet their individual responsibilities, while also achieving a quality education, meeting university requirements and policies, and maintaining the integrity of the degree.

"I truly enjoy the collaborative working relationships within the Graduate School, getting to know the many Graduate Coordinators, advisors and supportive departments across the university, and having the privilege to work directly with students," Dr. Bridge says.

After two years in this position, she hopes to continue to both identify policies, procedures or barriers to graduation communicated by either students or advisors, and participate in efforts to examine expanded supports and resources for the EMU graduate community in the future.

## *Compliance Guidance*

The Office of Research Compliance has been involved in developing EMU policies and procedures for using Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or drones. New FAA regulations require that all UAS users register with the FAA at <https://registermyuas.faa.gov>. UAS users who are hobbyists or recreational flyers must obey FAA guidelines, including flying at or below 400 feet, being able to see the UAS at all times during flight, never flying over groups of people or sporting events, never flying while intoxicated, and contacting air traffic control or airport management at all airports within five miles. Students are considered hobbyists and can fly UAS without FAA permission provided the UAS are registered with the FAA. Faculty who wish to use UAS for teaching or research are not considered hobbyists and must obtain Remote Pilot Certification. Faculty who plan to use UAS for teaching or research can contact Sonia Chawla at [schawlaw@emich.edu](mailto:schawlaw@emich.edu) for more information.



## Upcoming Events

### **Applying to the National Institutes of Health AREA Program Brownbag**

Presented by: Susan Campbell, Pre-Award Officer

Tuesday, November 8 and Wednesday, November 9

Location: 200 Boone Hall

Time: 12:30-1:30pm

### **Research Development from Idea to Analysis: Learn to Avoid the Pitfalls and Streamline the Process**

Presented by: Matthew Dick, Graduate School Statistics Consultant

Tuesday, November 8 and Wednesday, November 9

Location: 302 Halle

Time: 4-5pm

### **Applying to the Health Resources & Services Administration Brownbag**

Presented by: Donelle Goerlitz, Pre-Award Officer

Tuesday, November 15

Location: 101 Marshall

Time: 12:30-1:30pm

### **Graduate @ the Podium, A Presentation Opportunity for Graduate Students**

Presented by: The Office of Graduate Studies and Research

Friday, November 18, 2016

Location: 3rd Floor, Student Center

Time: 8-11:30am

### **How to Build a Budget Brownbag**

Presented by: Christine Kropelnickyj and Susan Campbell, Pre-Award Officers

Monday, November 28 and Tuesday, November 29

Location: 224 Rackham

Time: 12-1pm

### **Finding Funding for Graduate Students**

Presented by: Donelle Goerlitz, Graduate School Coordinator

Tuesday, November 29 and Wednesday, November 30

Location: 302 Halle

Time: 4-5pm

### **You Got the Grant, Now What?**

Featuring: A "Recently Funded" and ORDA Post-Award Officers panel

Friday, December 2

Location: 320 Halle

Time: 8:30-10:30am



## *EMU's first student I-Corps participant, Emily Schwinghamer, shares her experience.*

Emily Schwinghamer has a vision for Milkweed: its commonplace use as a sustainable source of cellulose fibers, which could potentially reduce the need for non-sustainable fibers like polyester and cotton.

Schwinghamer, an Apparel, Textiles and Merchandising Masters student, says her research is focused on "developing an understanding of Milkweed fibers sufficient that it will one day be commonplace as a fiber additive, valued for its lightness, UV protection, thermal insulation, et cetera," and hopes to "pioneer a major advance in textile technology that helps redefine humanity's relationship with its environment and apparel in a positive way."

Despite Schwinghamer's passion for her research, its practical application was not something she considered prior to her participation in EMU's I-Corps program.

Innovation Corps (I-Corps) is an entrepreneurial-based regional and national workshop through the National Science Foundation that provides consumer interaction and guidance for researchers looking to clarify their path to achievement of goals, reaching target markets and fulfilling their problem solving potential.

In 2016, four teams from EMU completed the Michigan Regional I-Corps workshop program, which was held in the spring, at the Wayne State Center for Entrepreneurship within the Col-

lege of Engineering at the University of Michigan. Schwinghamer was EMU's first student participant.

"I-Corps is all about avoiding wasted time and resources on research that is unlikely to find usefulness or profitability, and instead, looking at the current climate or practices for your research and its potential marketability," said Schwinghamer.

Opportunities to conduct market research included 30 interviews with people from varied customer segments, and interactions with experienced potential mentors.

End products focused on logging interviews, identifying potential customers and customer needs addressed by research, planning for development, maintenance of customer base and partners, and revenue models.

"This experience provided me with a sort of market-discovery roadmap. It was invaluable in helping me understand the way my research fits into the real world, and provided a very clear procedure that I was unlikely to arrive at on my own. I am, now, much better equipped to take my research as far as it can go."

For additional information contact Melinda Marion, Director of the Office of Technology Transfer Director. News release: <https://www.emich.edu/univcomm/releases/release.php?id=1463759501>